

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 010900Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1278

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8785

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PDIP UK VS

SUBJ: UK-RGSVN DISCUSSIONS ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: LONDON 09873

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF CABLE DATED JUNE 18, PROVIDED
US BY UK EMBASSY FROM FCO SE ASIA DEPT HEAD WILLIAM SQUIRE ON
HIS TALKS WITH RGSVN AMBASSADOR BA IN PARIS REGARDING ESTABLISH-
ING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. DURING CONVERSATION, BA ALSO SAID
RGSVN PLANNED TO JOIN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES BUT QUESTION OF
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UN MEMBERSHIP WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. OFFSHORE
EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS MADE UNDER THIEU WERE NULL AND VOID,
BUT RGSVN WILL SEEK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN EXPLOITING
OFFSHORE SUPPLIES. BECAUSE OF DIFFERING CONDITIONS, TIME IS

NOT RIPE FOR REUNIFICATION OF SVN AND NVN, END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN QUOTE: WE HAD A FRIENDLY AND FULL MEETING WITH PHAM VAN BA THIS MORNING WHICH COVERED THE GROUND ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND THEN TOUCHED ON GENERAL MATTERS. HE DID NOT MENTION THE HONG KONG CONSULATE.

2. BA BEGAN BY WELCOMING THE BRITISH WISH TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND THANKED US AGAIN FOR HANDING OVER DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY IN LONDON. HE REPEATED THE GENERAL PROPOSITION THAT ALL PROPERTIES FROM THE OLD SOUTH VIETNAM GOVERNMENT, WHEREVER THEY WERE, NOW BELONGED TO THE PRG MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY THE AIR VIETNAM AIRCRAFT IN HONG KONG. HE THEN ASKED WHAT IDEAS WE HAD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. WE EXPLAINED WE WOULD TREAT THE PRG EMBASSY IN LONDON ON THE BASIS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND HANDED OVER THE FCO MEMORANDUM ON DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. BA SAID THAT FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN SAIGON WOULD RECEIVE SIMILAR TREATMENT, BUT PRACTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT ONCE THE MISSION HAD RETURNED.

3. I SAID WE HAD IN MIND A MORE MODEST SIZED MISSION THAN IN THE PAST, HEADED INITIALLY BY A CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND ULTIMATELY BY AN AMBASSADOR, WE WERE READY TO RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN DISCUSSION BA SAID THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS WOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE END OF JULY, BUT HE AGREED THAT FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES WE COULD PLAN ON RETURNING DURING THE FIRST 10 DAYS IN AUGUST. HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR SOME CONTINUITY IN STAFF, AND ENVISAGED NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY OVER THE RETURN OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY (OTHER THAN THE AMBASSADOR) ESPECIALLY FOR ADMINISTRATION STAFF. IN THEIR OWN CASE BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE THEIR OWN AMBASSADOR MIGHT HAVE TO COVER A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

4. HE PROPOSED A TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WHICH, AFTER CONSULTING THE LEGAL ADVISER AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSING AMENDMENTS HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AD REFERENDUM. WE AGREED THIS COULD BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS SIMULTANEOUSLY AT NOON ON MONDAY 23 JUNE.

5. ON GENERAL MATTERS BA SAID THE PRG WAS TAKING UP MEMBERSHIP OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHICH COULD HELP IN THEIR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, BUT HAD NOT YET TAKEN THE DECISION TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN ITSELF. THEY WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AID ONCE REGULAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

6. BA SAID THAT, AMERICAN PROPERTY APART, NO DECISION TO NATIONALIZE FOREIGN ENTERPRISES HAD BEEN TAKEN. IN PRINCIPLE

THEY WANTED SUCH ENTERPRISES TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. THE PRG REGARDED THE CONCESSIONS FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION GRANTED BY THE THIEU REGIME AS NULL AND VOID. BUT THEY NEEDED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD ON A BASIS OF PARTNERSHIP AND TO SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THEY WERE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF WHAT COUNTRIES MIGHT PROVE STABLE PARTNERS.

7. ON REUNIFICATION, BA SAID THE TIME WAS NOT RIPE. VIETNAM WAS ONE COUNTRY, BUT CONDITIONS IN THE SOCIALIST NORTH WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE SOUTH. TIME WAS NEEDED BEFORE REUNIFICATION COULD BE ACHIEVED. MEANWHILE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWED COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES. END QUOTE.

8. TOKYO SHOULD NOT BE CITED AS SOURCE IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS CABLE.
HODGSON

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